Problems of Haj Pilgrims

3299. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaint from the State Government of West Bengal regarding the problems being faced by their Haj Pilgrims; and

(b) the steps taken by his Ministry to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No.

(b) Not applicable.

Effect of Hyde Act on nuclear deal

†3300. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in a position to state that the Hyde Act would not be effective over Indo-US nuclear deal;

(b) whether the American side means that the deal does not come under the purview of Hyde Act;

(c) whether by blaming the violation of deal on the pretext of inspection America itself and its allies may stop supply of nuclear fuel and may withdraw the technology and establishment; and

(d) whether the stabilization of price of Uranium has been ensured?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Hyde Act, is enabling legislation passed by the US Congress and signed into law by President Bush on December 18, 2006 as part of its commitment under the 18 July 2005 Joint Statement, to amend its laws to enable the US Government to enter into full civil nuclear cooperation with India. Following the passage of the Hyde Act, India was exempted from the requirements of Section 123(a)(2) of the US Atomic Energy Act, 1954 that requires full-scope safeguards as a condition for civil nuclear cooperation with US. The Hyde Act is domestic legislation of the United States. India's rights and obligation regarding civil nuclear cooperation with the US arise only from the 123 Agreement that we have agreed upon with the US. The 123 Agreement has incorporated fuel supply assurances as well as a multi-layer consultation process to guard against any disruption of fuel supply.

(d) The price of Uranium, like any other commodity, depends upon global supply and demand.

Indians travelling with false documents

3301. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens reported to have been arrested in foreign countries for travelling with false documents, during 2005 and 2006;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.